

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) An open color management system as in claim 33 ~~[[1]]~~ wherein said input color space dataset is further selected from the group consisting of CMYK, SWOP CMYK, and Euro CMYK.

15. (Currently Amended) An open color management system as in claim 33 ~~[[1]]~~ wherein said output color space dataset is further selected from the group consisting of CMYK, CMYK-plus-light magenta-plus-light cyan, and CMYK-plus-orange-plus green.

16. (Currently Amended) An open color management system as in claim 33 ~~[[1]]~~ wherein:
said given input device is selected from the group consisting of electronic displays, digital cameras, scanners, personal computers, laptops, hand-held computers, and graphic arts software running on a processor; and
said selected output device is selected from the group consisting of inkjet printers, electrophotographic printers, and lithographic printers.

17. (Currently Amended) An open color management system as in claim 33 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein said input color profile further comprises:
an input gamut surface data set; and
an input look-up table for conversion from said input color space dataset to a profile connection space while preserving any input black information.

18. (Original) An open color management system as in claim 17, wherein said output color profile further comprises:

an output gamut surface data set;

an output look-up table for conversion from said output color space dataset to said profile connection space while preserving any output black information; and

optionally, an output ink limit dataset to be used in conjunction with said output gamut surface data set.

19. (Original) An open color management system as in claim 18, wherein said open color manager further comprises:

a processing means for transforming said input color space dataset to said profile connection space and said input black information;

a processing means for comparing, in said profile connection space, said input gamut surface data set with said output gamut surface data set to determine a gamut mapping function and a black mapping function;

an optional processing means for applying said optional output ink limit data set to said gamut mapping function to optimize said gamut mapping function;

a processing means for applying said black mapping function to said input black information to determine said output black information, thereby enabling direct control of said output black information by adjusting said input black information;

a processing means for adjusting said profile connection space data from said given input device to said selected output device by applying said gamut mapping function; and

a processing means for converting said gamut-adjusted profile connection space data to said output color space dataset by applying said output lookup table from said output color profile in conjunction with said output black information.

20. (Original) An open color management system as in claim 19, wherein said profile connection space is CIE L*a*b.

21. (Original) An open color management system as in claim 19, wherein said profile connection space is CIE XYZ.

22. (Original) An open color management system as in claim 19, wherein said profile connection space is CIE CAM97 Jab.

23. (Original) An open color management system as in claim 19 wherein said input color space dataset is further selected from the group consisting of CMYK, SWOP CMYK, and Euro CMYK.

24. (Original) An open color management system as in claim 19 wherein said output color space dataset is further selected from the group consisting of CMYK, CMYK-plus-light magenta-plus-light cyan, and CMYK-plus-orange-plus green.

25. (Original) An open color management system as in claim 19 wherein:
said given input device is selected from the group consisting of electronic displays, digital cameras, scanners, personal computers, laptops, hand-held computers, and graphic arts software running on a processor; and
said selected output device is selected from the group consisting of inkjet printers, electrophotographic printers, and lithographic printers.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for open color management comprising:
connecting a plurality of input devices and a plurality of output devices to a network space;
initiating contact with a selected output device by a given input device;
linking an input color profile with an output color profile over the network space;
processing an input color data set comprising black plus multiple color channels through a real-time gamut mapping and color space conversion while substantially preserving black channel information; and
passing output color data with substantially preserved black channel levels to said selected output color device.

27-32. (Canceled)

33. (New) An open color management system allowing any of a plurality of input color devices to share data with any of a plurality of output color devices comprising:

- a networked connection space for input and output device communication;

- an input color profile for each input device;

- an output color profile for each output device; and

- an open color manager, which resides on a given input device, to link said given input device with a selected output device, including a configuration to parse an input color space data set comprising black channel data plus multiple color channel data with the input and output color profiles at a job time to create a profile connection space including transformed multiple color channels plus the input black channel data to provide an output color space data set comprising the input black channel data plus the transformed multiple color channels for imaging by said selected output device while substantially preserving the input black channel data; and

- wherein said input color profile is provided by a device selected from the group including:

- said given input device; and

- a remote database; and

- wherein said output color profile is provided by a device selected from the group including:

- said selected output device; and

- a remote database.

34. (New) An open color management system allowing any of a plurality of input color devices to share data with any of a plurality of output color devices comprising:

- a networked connection space for input and output device communication;

- an input color profile for each input device;

- an output color profile for each output device; and

- an open color manager, which resides on a selected output device, to link a given input device with said selected output device, including a configuration to parse an input color space data set comprising black channel data plus

multiple color channel data with the input and output color profiles at a job time to create a profile connection space including transformed multiple color channels plus the input black channel data to provide an output color space data set comprising the input black channel data plus the transformed multiple color channels for imaging by said selected output device while substantially preserving the input black channel data; and

wherein said input color profile is provided by a device selected from the group including:

said given input device; and
a remote database; and

wherein said output color profile is provided by a device selected from the group including:

said selected output device; and
a remote database.

35. (New) An open color management system allowing any of a plurality of input color devices to share data with any of a plurality of output color devices comprising:

a networked connection space for input and output device communication;

an input color profile for each input device;
an output color profile for each output device; and

an open color manager, which resides on a remote processing device, to link a given input device with a selected output device, including a configuration to parse an input color space data set comprising black channel data plus multiple color channel data with the input and output color profiles at a job time to create a profile connection space including transformed multiple color channels plus the input black channel data to provide an output color space data set comprising the input black channel data plus the transformed multiple color channels for imaging by said selected output device while substantially preserving the input black channel data; and

wherein said input color profile is provided by a device selected from the group including:

said given input device; and
a remote database; and

wherein said output color profile is provided by a device selected from the group including:

said selected output device; and
said remote database.